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News From Our Local Churches - October



United Church UCC Huntsville Celebrates its 50th Anniversary

On October 2-3 United Church UCC Huntsville gathered with pastors, families and friends from across the 50 years of its history to celebrate being the first church established by the United Church of Christ in the Southeast Conference. Until 1960 all the churches in this region had been congregations built by our



predecessor denominations. United Church drew support from the mission societies of both the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. Present for the celebration were all the living pastors who have served United Church, including Allen Hollis, Jim Norris, and their first pastor, Jim Humphreys. Born in the challenging civil rights era, the early pastors of United Church spoke up for and witnessed to racial equality. They hosted the first integrated choir gathered in Huntsville. At first they worshipped in a farm house, and in the 1990's moved into their newly built sanctuary.

[Click to see slideshow!](#)
[Click to see slideshow!](#)

The program on Saturday night included stories from each decade of the church's history. The sermon on Sunday, offered by Pastor Rob Hurst was a challenge to



UCC News

UCC Newsroom

Headlines from the United Church of Christ

[Unified Governance receives approval of UCC boards, Executive Council](#)

Following a year of deliberation, including discernment and dialog from congregations, Conferences and interest groups, a "Proposal for Unified Governance of the National Setting of the United Church of Christ" was delivered by the Unified Governance (UGov) Working Group and has received approval to proceed from the UCC's Executive Council and the boards of the four Covenanted Ministries.

history. The sermon on Sunday, offered by Pastor Bob Harst was a challenge to the congregation to face the coming years with vision and hope. A copy of his sermon is available by contacting [Tim Downs](#). Conference Minister Tim Downs noted in his comments that the United Church has, throughout its history provided leadership in many settings of the United Church of Christ, from the association and conference to the national church.

Praxis United Church of Christ Holds first Worship Service

Led by their pastor Chris Lyman Waldron, Praxis United Church of Christ, one of the newest churches in the Southeast Conference held its first worship service at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta. The church, a ministry of the Southeast Conference has been in development for almost a year.

Chris and Leah Lyhman-Waldron moved to Atlanta one year ago with the dream of starting a new progressive UCC church called Praxis UCC. According to Chris, "Praxis is a Greek word meaning "practice". It refers to the way that we integrate our spirit and faith into daily life so that our actions rise out of our relationship with God, and our



spirit is nurtured by the way we act in the world around us." They hosted their first worship service the first of October and had over 40 people in attendance.

[Click to see slideshow!](#) [Click to see slideshow!](#)

"The Praxis service was in a word '**Amazing**' with a jazz band leading the music, Chris delivering an exceptional message and people given the chance to respond in a *talkback time* during worship," as stated by Rev. Cameron Trimble. The Southeast Conference once again is birthing a new thing.

Peace Congregational UCC, Clemson, SC, Celebrates Coming Out Day

Peace Congregational UCC, led by Susie Smith, celebrated Coming out Day in October, and invites all to view the video of the occasion on Susie Smith's Facebook page.

Nashville UCC Churches Gather for Upper Room Fellowship

On October 16th the members of the UCC churches in Nashville, Brookmeade Congregational UCC, First UCC, Holy Trinity community UCC, and Howard Congregational UCC gather for their Upper Room Fellowship for a potluck fellowship at Howard Congregational UCC followed by a concert at the country Music Hall of Fame featuring Jason and DeMarco. The Upper Room Fellowship

music hall of fame featuring Jason and DeMarco. The Upper Room Fellowship has in recent years become a tradition of the UCC church in Nashville to foster fellowship and spiritual renewal.



**The Bryan College
Chamber Singers |
Memorial Concert**

The Bryan College
Chamber Singers will
perform at Fairfield
Glade Community

Church in Fairfield Glade, TN. The Memorial Concert is held every year to honor members of the congregation who have died since the last concert. All are Welcome! >> [Link for More Information](#) will perform at Fairfield Glade Community Church in Fairfield Glade, TN. The Memorial Concert is held every year to honor members of the congregation who have died since the last concert. All are Welcome! >> [Link for More Information](#)

**Congratulations to Our Churches Honored for their Generosity to the
Neighbors in Need Offering**

We received a notice from the United Church of Christ congratulating us on the generosity of a number of our churches to the annual Neighbors in Need special offering. Those churches were Deer Lodge Congregational UCC, Deer Lodge, TN, Holy Trinity Community UCC, Nashville, Midway Congregational UCC, Midway GA., Lanett Congregational Christian Church, Lanett AL, Trinity Congregational UCC, Athens, AL, Pleasant Hill Community UCC, TN, Central Congregational UCC, Atlanta, and Circular congregational UCC, Charleston. Thank you for remembering those among us with the greatest need!



**Congratulations to First
Congregational UCC, Talladega**

First Congregational UCC in
Talladega received word that their
historic meeting house has been
accepted to be placed on the
Alabama Register of Landmarks and
Heritage.

**United Congregational Christian
Church UCC, Columbus Leaves
Building to Historic Columbus
Foundation**

Following a couple of years of conversation, the United Congregational Christian Church UCC, of Columbus has finalized arrangements to leave its building to the Historic Columbus foundation, which will renovate the facility and locate its offices in it. A part of the Elderite Christian Movement which swept the Chattahoochee Valley, the United Church had a long and faithful history of witness. Minister James Johnson worked with the East Alabama-West Georgia Association and the Southeast Conference to affect this transfer of property. Conference Minister Tim Downs noted "this is a way for the legacy of this congregation to continue serving its community. This is not a day of mourning as much as a day of celebration that a church in its final act, found a way for its generosity to bless the community it has served for years. Minister James Johnson has asked that we put out an appeal for any articles, notes pictures that people might have so that when the building is reopened by the Historic Foundation there might be a display of the history of the church. Any such materials can be sent to the Conference office.

Tougaloo College Gathered for their Founders' Day Celebration

On Sunday October 17th Conference Minister Tim Downs and Association

Conference Minister Kathy Clark were present to represent the United Church of Christ at Tougaloo College's, a UCC affiliated college, Founders' Day celebration. President Beverly Wade Hogan opened the proceedings by remembering the tradition that shaped the college and its values, the American Missionary Association. She currently serves as the chair of the United Church of Christ Council for Theological and Higher Education. The international renowned Tougaloo College Concert choir provided the music, and the address to the assembly was offered by a Tougaloo graduate, Beverly Cole.



The event highlighted the growing global emphasis of the college as it introduces language classes in Mandarin and Korean to prepare its graduates for participation in the an increasingly globalized world. Following the Founders' Day Celebration in the historic Woodworth Chapel, there was a ground breaking ceremony for the new student commons building.



First Congregational UCC, Atlanta, Hosts Mayor Kasim Reed
September 19, 2010
First Congregational UCC Atlanta, moved to the final step of restoration of their historic sanctuary, by hosting Mayor Kasim Reed of Atlanta, at their Homecoming Worship Service on September 19th. The theme of the Homecoming was Courage to finish our Journey.

Thank you, Deer Lodge Congregational UCC for your Support of Transforming Churches, Transforming Lives!
A Small Church with a Big Heart!

Moderator Ginny Nixon brought greetings to Deer Lodge Congregational Church, UCC, and a small church that has been serving this rural community on the

Cumberland Plateau since it was a thriving coal-mining center. This multi-generational family church has already paid its pledge of \$5,000 to the Transforming Churches; Transforming Lives Campaign. Moderator Farrell Kennedy and Pastor Rose Hermanot both expressed their support for the mission and ministry of the Southeast Conference and their association of





and their appreciation of both the award and the visit from Moderator Ginny Nixon.

Open Table Community

of Faith, Mobile Celebrates:

All Creatures . . . sing “Alleluia!”

The hymn attributed to St. Francis of Assisi was sung with unusual gusto during Open Table’s Blessing of the Animals service on October 4th, the feast day of St. Francis. Members and friends of Open Table brought cats, dogs, and one vocal hen to celebrate God’s love and care of all creation. The only poultry present, Goldie made her presence known on the chorus of our opening hymn. “All creatures of our God and King lift up your voice and with us sing,” began the human voices. As if on cue, Goldie joined us on the “Alleluia!” Soon the dogs responded, antiphonally. Who could keep from laughing after that? The pastor did not tell Goldie she was the first chicken the pastor had ever blessed . . . that was not on a plate.



In our prayer time we thanked God “for the affection and trust of our pets, for the deep mystery of a whale, for the playfulness of a prairie dog, for the beauty of bird song.” And we asked forgiveness for “despoiling the habitats of creatures entrusted to our care.” As residents of the Gulf Coast, we are painfully aware of the broad impact of human carelessness—ours and others’. But our hearts were gladdened by the animals which

have brought our homes such joy and love.

United Church UCC Cookeville Celebrates

The United Church of Cookeville celebrated its 8th Annual covenant Renewal Day at worship.

Brookmeade Congregational UCC Welcomes Guest Preacher

Brookmeade hosted Rev. Steven C. Baines, the Assistant Field Director for Religious Outreach of the Americans United for Separation of Church and State on the 24th both as the preacher at worship and for a forum following worship. The church is also hosting U. C. C. Flood Relief Mission team for the rest of the year.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

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